



February 14, 2014

Mayor:
CHUCK DELLA SALA

Councilmembers:
LIBBY DOWNEY
ALAN HAFFA
NANCY SELFRIDGE
FRANK SOLLECITO

City Manager:
FRED MEURER

California Coastal Commission
c/o Sea-Level Rise Work Group
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105

RE: Draft Sea Level Rise Policy Guidance

Dear Interested Party:

The City of Monterey has reviewed the Draft Sea Level Rise Policy Guidance. The draft provides a clear approach to new development and coastal plan updates which our staff believes can be incorporated and addressed.

The City does have substantial questions on how existing development and infrastructure (private and public) would be handled. There is some guidance provided in Principle 10 that establishes the least damaging alternative should be pursued first which we concur is always the first approach. In fact, the City has been working with a regional workgroup to identify these approaches for our coastline.

The question revolves around principle 10 that states, "In some situations, protection of existing structures may include the use of traditional hard shoreline protection devices (as permitted under the Coastal Act in certain conditions)." Other principles state that the property owners will be required to pay a sand mitigation fee if these structures are proposed.

The basic question is does the City and individuals have the right to protect property with hard shoreline protection devices if the soft approaches fail to work. There is a specific property in Cannery Row where the developer is proposing to keep the existing, historic building and adaptively reuse the historic cannery. It is unclear what the Coastal Commission's approach will be on this property and others such as the City's wharves, sewer line, sewer lift stations, roadways, etc. It will be particularly challenging to move this type of infrastructure.

We request that the document be amended to provide more guidance in this area other than "as permitted under the Coastal Act in certain conditions."

Sincerely,


Michael McCarthy
Interim City Manager